I have no confidents here, and shall permit none. Not a mortal knows or suspects my correspondence with you. Be ever on your guard. *Tell nothing.* Proceed by the way of *question*. My hints may indicate the *queries* you can make, as you have opportunity. It was owing to Mr. J. J. Marshall and to Mr. Patten Johnson that Framingham is not represented this year, by Moses Edgell, who voted in the legislature for the license law of 1838. Those men *they* supported *Ed*gell, and *that* was one great cause of the mischief. Mr. Brigham is helping the unitarians to carry out their plans, whether he knows it, or not. His wife is a good helpmate in the business. His course is wrong in my opinion, and it was wrong in Mr. Trask's view. I have talked this particular [illegible] with Mr. Trask, a number of times. I do not advise Mr. B. [illegible] say nothing to him.

Mr. B. says "Why, what shall I do?" Mr. Babby keeps inviting me to act with him. At the same time, Mr. Babby writes to his Unitarian friends that I am guilty, that the trial *changed* nobody's opinion"! The unitarians use him, (Mr. Brigham) and he thus strengthens their hands — who always say that he is a weak man, and a liar, and speak of him with still greater freedom. Mr. Phelps, I am in great trouble — I am sorely distressed. I can *think* of nothing that can be done. If Mr. Kirk — *some revival preacher*, could labor here, awhile, it might effect some good.

Thine, Dear Sir, truly & affectionately,

L. K—

Rev. A. A. Phelps,
Boston.

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Framingham
Mass. Feb. 7.

Paid

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Rev. A. A. Phelps,
Pastor of the 1st Free Cong. Church
Boston

Paid

Wednesday Evening, 12th Feby. In continuation of my letter forwarded by yesterday's mail, I would take the liberty to add something on this page. Rev. Mr. Z. S. Barstow has made inquiries for a situation for my son in the stores in Keene, without success, as I have learned by this morning's mail.

I do not intend to ask you to be at great trouble to aid me & my son, but I beg you would interest *yourself* in this thing. If I do not have some gentleman whom *I know* to be a man of principle and dis-crimination of character to assist me by inquiries and advice, I see not how I can accomplish this object. And I have a number of boys to look out for, whom I am anxious to have brought up in habits of industry & virtue. My father has property, and as he says has provided for all my children. But he is such, as to make our case very peculiar. It is very difficult to find out all that one would desire to know respecting men to whom a son's fortunes, and the formation of his business habits are to be confided. Among other things, there is a great difference in the *social* standing of men in the city, whose business is perhaps the same. This is a point that deserves some consideration. If you should get a list of such mercantile houses as are considered the most desirable situations for a young man to be placed in, it would be a convenience. Mr. Tappan would know about them, and your ministerial brethren in the city could mention to you those merchants whom *they know* to be men of [illegible] moral [illegible] entire respectability. I would thank you [illegible] not to mention our name, unless some case should come up to [illegible] make it immediately necessary. If Mr. Tappan knows stores in the *country* that he would consider *eligible* places, I should be extremely obliged to have him name them. I wish you would talk over with those with whom you judge best to confer the subject of the expense, which George's friends *must* be at to sustain him in a proper situation in the city. I begin to despair — to be afraid that no situation will do for a young man wishing to prepare himself for mercantile life, *without* it is a father's or a brother's store. I have heard that some of the mercantile houses require a young man to pay *them* for his clerkship a sum of money, besides defraying all his own expenses. Tell me the worst, counsel me, and help me, I beseech you, all you can consistently. Interest *good men* for my dear, good boy.

I am obliged to revert to a painful subject. Since I have been writing, a lady has been in, and told me something new respecting Mr. Brigham which, she thinks, must give sore offence to some of this Chh. I do not know but what you would think ~~it is~~ Mr. B's course in the [illegible], to which I allude all right & well enough, but *some* of Mr. Brigham's Chh. will be grieved. I have also been told this evening, that it was expected that Mr. Chs. F. W. Parkhurst & his wife, would soon sign off, and go up to Unionville Chh. because they are so much dissatisfied with our pastor. This is a matter of some importance. *Mr. Parkhurst ought not to leave us.* If you think proper to exert some influence with Mr. Parkhurst, or cause some other minister to do it, I beg of you to give *this case your attention*.

should have a kind, affectionate intimation, that the events of Providence have placed him in such a position in this town & village that his usefulness here in all the future must be dubious. This may be done delicately by some ministerial friend of his proposing some other post for his consideration. It may occur to your mind then: Why don't Mr. Kingsbury spread the case before Mr. Brigham's particular friends, and advise them to move. I know very well that I could stir them. I know very well that Mr. B's friends have long been in alarm & anxiety. But were I to go to them, if they should be perfectly cordially to all my views & feelings, it would only tie my hands. They would expect me to sympathise with all their plans. If they should aid in removing Mr. B. they would take care to be sure of settling one of their own men in his place. Mr. Phelps — and this I should say to the Boston ministers — and to the Theological schools, it would not do. We must have a different man here. And there are other circumstances connected with Mr. Brigham which are a great & serious prejudice to him & his labors with us, which it would be cruel to name, for he cannot help it now. I refer to matters which are not generally known. And of which there is no need to speak, because in some other place, with another people, those connections might have no unfavorable influence, or very much less so, than in this town & neighborhood.

It grieves me to have occasion to put out so many personalities. Yet I give my opinions confidently to you, for full well I know, that your friend Mr. Trask would give precisely similar views, if it were his duty to express any. Should there ever be a move here, your ministerial friends & the Boston ministers should be primed on the subject of Mr. J. J. Marshall. He is acquainted with some of the B. ministers — Mr. Adams, I think, and some leading christians in the city. His business frequently calls him to Boston. Mr. Marshall would be very zealous & active to get a minister, and to get one that he could have special influence with. This would not do. Mr. Marshall may be a Taylorist — though he knows so little about the subject, he can hardly be called anything — and he would struggle to get a different man from one that would please you or Mr. Trask. Mr. Marshall is unpopular with the majority of our society, and his influence now, is less than it has been. Mr. Chs. & W. Parkhurst is your man, and one of the best men in this Ch. Another caution. Mr. Patten Johnson is a zealous abolitionist, and quite a smart man for an illiterate one. He wants to lead. It would not do. His temper is such that he would turn against one to whom he had been most attached, upon any slight provocation. Johnson calls himself an old school man, but is as near a Methodist as any thing. All Mr. Trask's old friends are very much opposed to Mr. P. Johnson. Mr. P. J.'s veracity has been assailed. And Mr. Trask's party, the majority party would drive Mr. J. J. Marshall & Mr. P. Johnson out of this Ch. and Dea Luther Reaven out of the deaconship, if they could.

N. B. Mr. Parkhurst and others who may be dis-affected, ought not to learn! What Mr. Brigham does, extends its influence throughout this conference. If there ever should be a change, the right man to succeed Mr. B. would revolutionize far & wide.

(Confidential.)

Lawson Kingsbury

Framingham, Feb. 12th 1840

Very Dear Sir:—

17 As an example of our preaching, I cannot but tell you, that about two months since, Mr. Brigham preached a sermon on the Bible, which he stated was the first of a course of sermons he proposed to give us. Such a course he thought to be called for here, because it was owing to the neglect of such preaching that perfectionism prevails in Ohio and Western N. York. This course has been continued with only such interruptions by other subjects, as I conclude may naturally be expected. And I do not believe that we shall have any perfectionism here or any other excitement unless it may be one that ~~he~~ our minister would feel to be a seriously untoward event. As an instance of what I believe to be Mr. Brigham's management, look at this. Our County Abolition Soc'y held their adjourned meeting here on Tuesday of last week. In the afternoon of that day Mr. Brigham goes down to Mr. Hosford's to attend an Association meeting. Rev. Mr. Webster of Hopkinton remained with us & in the early part of the afternoon proposed a resolution on the subject of the proceedings of the French nation at the Sandwich Islands. Soon after the resolution was laid on the table Mr. Webster left the meeting. The natural tendency of introducing that subject, would be to distract the attention of the meeting, turn it aside from abolitionism. I do not know that Mr. B. prompted Mr. Webster in the matter, but it is so like Mr. Brigham's course on the subject of Abolitionism, and from other circumstances & events of that day which I do know, I can not resist the impression that it was a design of my pastor's. Again. The last Sabbath, Mr. B. exchanged pulpits with Mr. Cummings of Southboro'. Mr. Cummings is, as I am told, one of those clergymen who hold that slavery is justified by the bible, and he recently refused to permit an agent of the Ab. Soc. to lecture in his pulpit. Mr. Cummings is a particular friend of Mr. Brigham's. Mr. B. introduced Mr. Cummings to Southboro' I believe. Some of my society thought it was inconsistent for Mr. B. to exchange with Mr. Cst.— and immediately after our Abolition meeting, and some would not hear Mr. Cummings preach in the afternoon. I wish to state that Mr. C. is thought to be doing very well at South', and I suspect that he is a much abler preacher, than the community are generally aware of. As for Mr. Webster, & I apprehend that all the ministers in this association, if they do not entirely symbolize with Mr. Brigham, are under his influence — afraid of him. I presume you know that Dr. J. Ide and his particular ministerial friends devote themselves to the work of breaking down & destroying what Dr. Beecher has accomplished in this region. Mr. Brigham is relied upon by Dr. Ide to do that work here. It presses upon my mind that the time may have arrived, that Mr. Brigham